

"They took the Armenians up there and killed them," Ms. Cakirbay said, pointing to a hill above her. "They dug a hole for the bodies. My parents told me."

More than one million Armenians lived in what is now eastern Turkey until their community was shattered in an orgy of ethnic violence that exploded 85 years ago this spring. Many aspects of what happened then are still hotly debated, but here where the killings took place, few people doubt that they occurred.

"They don't teach it in school, but if you're interested there are plenty of ways you can find out," said Yasemin Orhan, a native of Elazig who graduated from the local university last year. "Many Armenians were killed. It's for sure."

Ms. Orhan said she had learned about the killings from her grandmother. Here in eastern Turkey, the passage of several generations has not been enough to wipe the killings from memory.

In the rest of the country, however, most people know little about the killings of 1915. Turkish textbooks refer to them only indirectly. They stress that Armenian militants were rebelling against the crumbling Ottoman Empire, and discount or ignore the killing of hundreds of thousands of civilians after the abortive revolt.

Conflicts over how to deal with the episode have provoked a worldwide propaganda war between Armenia and Turkey.

Armenian lobbyists want foreign governments to declare that what happened in 1915 was genocide. Some Armenian nationalists say that if Turkey can be forced to concede that, their next step might be to claim reparations or demand the return of land once owned by Armenians.

Turkish diplomats resolutely resist those efforts. They assert that Muslims as well as Christians were killed here in 1915, and that it is unfair to blame only one side.

To most Turks the events of 1915 seem distant, but in the Armenian consciousness they are a vivid and constant presence. Awareness of what is simply called "the genocide" is acute in Armenian communities around the world.

Often it is accompanied by fierce anger at Turkey's recalcitrance.

That anger boiled over into violence during the 1970's and 80's, when a group calling itself Commandos of the Armenian Genocide mounted a campaign against representatives of the Turkish government. It killed Turkish diplomats in the United States and elsewhere, and bombed targets including the Turkish Airlines counter at Orly Airport in Paris.

Since then the battle has shifted back to the diplomatic arena. Each spring, foreign leaders issue carefully worded commemorations of the killings. Last month, President Clinton issued a proclamation recalling "a great tragedy of the twentieth century: the deportations and massacres of roughly one and a half million Armenians in the final years of the Ottoman Empire." He did not use the word "genocide."

In the last year, Turkey has greatly improved its relations with Greece, but there has been little progress with Armenia. The two countries feud over a variety of political issues, but the wound that 1915 has cut into the Armenian psyche also plays an emotional role in keeping them apart.

In recent months, some of the first efforts toward reconciliation between Turks and Armenians have begun. One was a conference of Turkish, Armenian and American scholars who met at the University of Chicago to begin a joint inquiry into the events of 1915.

"This was the most difficult paper I have ever written in my life," said Selim Deringil, a historian at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, as he presented his analysis of Turkish-Armenian relations. "Venturing into the Armenian crisis is like wandering into a minefield."

The scholars who gathered in Chicago plan to meet again. Another group plans to open a series of conferences later this spring in Austria.

In a different kind of gesture, seven Turkish and Armenian women, all in their 20's, have joined in a campaign aimed at improving relations between their peoples. The group's first project will be raising money to restore an Armenian church near Van, a city in eastern Turkey that was one an Armenian capital. "This kind of thing has never been tried before," said one of the organizers, Safak Pavay, a Turkish journalist. "We want to give an example of unity between two peoples who lived together for a long time but became alienated from each other. It's about restoring a church as a way of restoring souls."

Elazig is just one place where Armenians were killed by Ottoman soldiers and Kurdish tribesmen in the spring and summer of 1915. But because several foreigners were living in the area and recorded what they saw, the killings here were unusually well documented.

One of the foreigners was an American consul, Leslie Davis, who took a trip around Lake Hazar, then known as Lake Golcuk, after the massacres. "Thousands and thousands of Armenians, mostly helpless women and children, were butchered on its shores and barbarously mutilated," he later wrote.

Armenian houses, churches and schools in this area have long since been destroyed or allowed to collapse. New villages have sprung up along the lake. Residents picnic under the mulberry tress that Armenians planted around their summer homes a century ago.

It is still possible to find artifacts of Armenian life here. At one antique shop near Elazig, \$250 will buy a heavy copper serving tray inscribed with the name of its former owner in distinctive Armenian script.

Just last month, a couple of men were discovered digging at what they believed to be a former Armenian cemetery. They were apparently looking for gold that, according to local lore, was often interred with wealthy Armenians.

Nevzat Gonultas, manager of a telephone substation on the lakeshore, is considered a local historian because his father spent many hours telling him stories from the past. Like most people around here—although unlike their brethren in other parts of Turkey—he knows what happened in 1915.

"Other people don't know because they don't live here," Mr. Gonultas said as he sipped tea on a recent evening. "My father told me that Turkey was weak at that time and the Armenians decided to stage an uprising. Then the order came to kill them. Almost all were killed. It wasn't a war; it was a massacre."

The Turkish authorities do not accept that version, and many Turks never hear it. A historical atlas issued by a leading Turkish newspaper does not show that much of this region was under Armenian rule for centuries.

At historical sites in this region, signs and brochures often discount or omit facts about the earlier Armenian presence. According to one new travel book, "guards are under instruction to eavesdrop on tourist guides who might be tempted to tell another story."

Anyone who seeks to learn about the events in 1915, however, need only come here.

"This used to be an Armenian area, but now they're gone," said a factory worker named Selhattin Cinar. "Dead, killed, chased away. Our government doesn't want to admit it. Why would you want to say, 'My yogurt is sour'?"

THE BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT TO STOP VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from The District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, there have been lots of marches in Washington, but some marches do not fade away. Indeed, they do not go away at all.

A movement was born yesterday, Mr. Speaker. In this city there occurred the largest anti-violence march in the Nation's history. It is estimated that there were 750,000 people. There might be some controversy, there always is, about numbers, half a million, 750,000. What we do know is they covered the Mall, and they had thousands upon thousands in five dozen cities as well. So, if you consider all those who marched throughout the United States and those who marched here, the moms easily made their million.

What this House ought to consider is whether or not 750,000 people could morph into 7 million voters geared to vote to do something about guns and their kids in the next election.

More impressive than their numbers, Mr. Speaker, was who they were. These were not pros. These were amateurs organized essentially from the suburbs of America. These were the proverbial soccer moms. These folks were from the voter-rich suburbs, and their call spread like spontaneous combustion.

But, I come to the floor this afternoon to say that if we thought yesterday's demonstration took this city by storm, watch out for the afterquake. Some of these moms are here today; some of them will be here every day. Mr. Speaker, the NRA has met its match in hundreds of thousands more people than they ever realized would be organized to keep guns away from their kids.

We should not ask why did they come to Washington; I want to ask what took them so long? The parents of America got a terrible, not wake-up call, but alarm bell from the Columbine High School massacre and all that has followed since.

It became clear that no matter where you live, this is one country, there is freedom of travel, and the guns have the same freedom of travel. Of course, there were people from my own district, countless people from my own district: Laura Wallace, Renae Marsh Williams, the mothers of the high

school sweethearts from Wilson high school who were killed by guns; Gillian Bates, who also marched with us, whose son is still in Children's Hospital with a bullet in his brain following the zoo shooting on Easter Monday.

But, Mr. Speaker, these mothers and fathers and families are way ahead of us. They want registration and licensing. We are still stuck on "stupid." We are still stuck on mandatory locks and closing the gun show loopholes. They are way ahead of the game, and we are going to have to meet them one day on registration and licensing.

Over and over again, they talked about not minding the inconvenience of registering their cars, and they could not understand why people would be against the registering of their guns, which can do harm to their children.

If in fact there is any respect for the families of America, at the very least we will free this legislation that has been held in bondage in conference, that is, by any measure, modest, too modest, to do the whole job, but a start and the kind of start that these families deserve.

If we have any respect for the people who came here on Sunday, for the people who marched in five dozen cities, surely we will free up that legislation that has been locked down for so long, disgracefully, considering what happened at Columbine and what has happened since.

We should never underestimate the determination of mothers. If I have any criticism to be made for them, it is that they should have been here when children were going down one by one. It should not have taken 15 in Colorado. Well, it did, and they now get it.

They wonder if we get it, and, if we do not get it, Mr. Speaker, they are going to get us, because they are not going away. They are going to turn their march into votes. These are very diverse people, poor people, black and white and Hispanic people, but they include many well-educated people who know how to do their homework and know how to get the job done.

I come to the floor this afternoon with a warning on their behalf: Get the minimum bill we have before us out of conference and passed before we go home for Memorial Day.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Ancient Scriptures tell us: "Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial of fire occurs or when something strange happens to you."

You, O Lord, are the God of all consolation. We pray to You for all those who are startled by sudden events and are shaken by what happens to those they hold dear.

How fragile and how unpredictable is life here on earth. How violent the times. Strengthen us in steadfast faith. Renew us in foundational relationships. For even in the most surprising moments, You call us, "Your Beloved."

Freed of fear and confusion, create in us a new spirit which will unify Your people in hope. May the brokenhearted hold fast to the constancy of Your love. For You live now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 434, AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 112) to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill, H.R. 434, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 112

(1) In section 112(b)(1), insert "(including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics

are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and are wholly formed and cut in the United States)" after "yarns wholly formed in the United States,".

(2) In section 112(b)(2), insert "(including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and are wholly formed in the United States)" after "yarns wholly formed in the United States,".

(3) In section 112(b)(3), strike "countries, subject" and insert "countries (including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and are wholly formed and cut in 1 or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries), subject".

(4) In section 112(b)(5)(A), insert "apparel articles of" after "to the extent that".

(5) In section 213(b)(2)(A) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill—

(A) in clause (i), strike "in a CBTPA beneficiary country" and insert "in 1 or more CBTPA beneficiary countries"; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) strike "cut in a CBTPA beneficiary country" and insert "cut in 1 or more CBTPA beneficiary countries"; and

(ii) strike "assembled in such country" and insert "assembled in 1 or more such countries".

(6) In section 213(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill, insert "(including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the HTS and are wholly formed and cut in the United States)" after "yarns wholly formed in the United States,".

(7) In section 213(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill, insert "(including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the HTS and are wholly formed in the United States)" after "yarns wholly formed in the United States,".

(8) In section 213(b)(2)(A)(iii)(I) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill, strike "United States, in an amount" and insert "United States (including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the HTS and are formed in 1 or more CBTPA beneficiary countries), in an amount".

(9) In clause (v) of section 213(b)(2)(A) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill—

(A) strike "fibers, fabric, or yarn" each place it appears in the heading and the text and insert "fabrics or yarn";

(B) strike "fibers, fabric, and yarn" and insert "fabrics and yarn"; and

(C) insert "apparel articles of" after "to the extent that".

(10) In section 213(b)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill, strike "entered" and insert "classifiable".

(11) In section 213(b)(2)(A) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as contained in section 211(a) of the bill, strike "(vii) TEXTILE LUGGAGE,—" and insert "(viii) TEXTILE LUGGAGE,—".

(12) Strike section 412(a)(2) and insert the following:

"(2) in the flush paragraph at the end, by striking "and (G)" and inserting "(G), and (H) (to the extent described in section 507(6)(D))".